

## PATENT CLAIMS

1. A method for the removal of mercury from a dilute aqueous solution of sulphuric acid, **characterised in that** an aqueous solution of thiosulphate alkali metal compound is fed into a solution of sulphuric acid with an acid content of 35 – 45 wt % and an Hg content of at least 1 g/l at a molar ratio corresponding to a maximum of one time the amount of mercury dissolved in the acid solution, so that the mercury reacts with the thiosulphate, precipitating the mercury that is in solution.  
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2. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in that** mercury is precipitated as mercury sulphide HgS.
3. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the aqueous solution of sulphuric acid contains chloride ions, so that the mercury is in solution as mercury chloride.  
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4. A method according to claim 3, **characterised in that** an aqueous solution of thiosulphate alkali metal compound is fed into a solution of sulphuric acid at a molar ratio that corresponds to a maximum of 0.67 times the amount of mercury dissolved in the acidic solution.  
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5. A method according to claim 3, **characterised in that** in a chloride environment mercury is recovered as a double salt  $2\text{HgS}\cdot\text{HgCl}_2$ .  
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6. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the thiosulphate alkali compound is sodium thiosulphate,  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3\cdot5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .
7. A method according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the precipitated mercury sediment is recovered by filtration.  
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